

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 6 without prejudice, and amend claims 2-3, 7-9, 12-13, and 17 as follows:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) A storage device having a loading mechanism, which loads a replaceable storage medium into the body of said storage device, mounted on a chassis, said loading mechanism including a spindle motor for rotating said storage medium, a lift plate on which said spindle motor is placed, and a lifting mechanism for moving said lift plate vertically to said chassis so as to attach or detach said spindle motor to or from said storage medium, said storage device comprising:

a constraining mechanism which constrains said lift plate to move towards said storage medium interposed between said chassis and said lift plate, said constraining mechanism being fixed to said chassis so that the constraining force is exerted from said chassis to said lift plate;

~~points~~at least one point to which constraining force exerted by said constraining mechanism being applied ~~are~~is located on a surface of said lift plate opposite to said storage medium.

3. (Original) A storage device according to Claim 2, further comprising:
a holding mechanism which holds said lift plate away from said chassis
with said storage medium not inserted in said body;

a freeing mechanism which frees said lift plate by moving said holding
mechanism in a direction opposite to a direction of insertion of said storage medium at the
completion of inserting said storage medium into said body, and allowing said constraining
mechanism to quickly move said lift plate towards said storage medium.

4. (Original) A storage device according to Claim 3, further comprising:
an Eject button used to instruct said body to eject said storage medium;
and

an ejecting mechanism which, when said Eject button is pressed, ejects
said storage medium inserted in said body out of said storage device after moving said
holding mechanism in a direction opposite to a direction of ejection of said storage medium.

5. (Currently Amended) A storage device according to Claim 4,
wherein:

two pairs of pins are located at laterally symmetrical positions on said
lift plate in a direction orthogonal to the direction of insertion of said storage medium; and

said holding mechanism includes holding members for holding said pins
with said storage medium not inserted in said body, grooves into which said pins are put

when said holding mechanism is moved at the completion of inserting said storage medium into said body, and inclined planes that are engaged with said pins when said holding mechanism is moved in the direction opposite to the direction of ~~insertion~~ ejection of said storage medium, and that thus separate said spindle motor from said storage medium.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) A storage device according to Claim ~~4~~, ~~wherein~~ 2, further comprising a height adjusting mechanism capable of adjusting a height of said lift plate from said chassis, said height adjusting mechanism ~~consists~~ consisting of screw holes bored in said lift plate and tapping screws to be fitted into said screw holes.

8. (Currently Amended) A storage device according to Claim ~~4~~ 2, wherein one of said points determines a reference height level, and a reference projection that abuts on said reference height level is formed on said chassis so that the reference projection will be opposed to said reference height level.

9. (Currently Amended) A storage device according to Claim ~~4~~ 7, wherein said height adjusting mechanism involves three points that are arranged at intervals of substantially 120° with the rotation shaft of said spindle motor as a center.

10. (Previously Presented) A storage device according to Claim 9, wherein said three points involved in said height adjusting mechanism are separated from the rotation shaft of said spindle motor by a substantially equal distance.

11. (Original) A storage device according to Claim 2, wherein said constraining mechanism constrains the center of gravity of said lift plate.

12. (Currently Amended) A storage device according to Claim ~~6~~11, wherein said ~~constraining mechanism constrains the~~ geometric center of gravity that ~~is~~determines a joint in said ~~a~~ tilt adjusting mechanism of said lift plate and said chassis, said tilt adjusting mechanism capable of adjusting a tilt of said lift plate relative to said chassis.

13. (Currently Amended) A storage device according to Claim ~~6~~12, wherein said constraining mechanism constrains respective points near a said joint in said ~~tilt adjusting mechanism of the lift plate and said chassis to move.~~

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Original) A storage device according to Claim 11, wherein said constraining mechanism consists of blade springs.

16. (Previously Presented) A storage device according to Claim 11, wherein said constraining mechanism consists of twisted coil springs.

17. (Currently amended) A storage device according to Claim 12, wherein slits are located at positions inside and outside an area on said lift plate occupied by said spindle motor, an extended lead to be coupled to a winding included in said spindle motor is led out to the back of said lift plate through a one of said slits located inside the area, and led back to the front surface of said lift plate through another one of said slits located outside the area.

18. (Previously Presented) A storage device according to Claim 5, wherein the sides of said grooves, which are included in said holding mechanism and opposed to said inclined planes, are formed as vertical contact portions, and said contact portions cause a pressing force oriented in a direction opposite to the direction of insertion of the storage medium to operate on said pins with said pins received by said grooves.